

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY China

REPORT

GP/D

SUBJECT Tsingtao and Tsamkong (Ft Bayard)--Port
Conditions and Approaches: Navigational
Information/Boarding and Port Security/
Vessels Sighted/Port Installations
(Import of rolled steel sheets & export of manganese) REFERENCES

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d. Naval Units. Five CHICOM destroyers (DD's) were normally berthed along-side the naval berthing pier.

The bridges of these vessels were painted a dark red as was the hull below a narrow white waterline. The remainder of each

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vessel was painted grey. The size and side profile of these destroyers resembled that of the Soviet Gordiy Class.

two of these DD's hurriedly got underway from the harbor and returned three days later covered with a coating deposited by black stack gases. Six landing craft about 40 ft. in length and mounting small automatic guns forward were also observed alongside the naval berthing pier. Two submarines, believed to resemble the Soviet "W" class, were observed alongside Wharf No. 5, northwest. two submarines (surfaced), one seaplane, and three patrol boats were circling the quarantine anchorage area (some two miles west of Small Harbor) apparently engaged in some sort of exercise. Two twin engine seaplanes were observed on the ramps at all times at the naval seaplane station. No night flying was noticed and no pattern of daily flights was determined.

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e. Merchant Ships Observed. One [] one Polish, and one [] merchant freighter were also berthed at pier No. 2. All of these vessels appeared to be off-loading black steel plates 1/16" to 2" thick, bar steel, and reels of wire. [] the steel plate was being compressed and used in the construction of tanks. Most of these cargoes were loaded aboard railway cars.

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f. Port Installations and Facilities. [] Electric power was extremely poor (weak and flickering). Ship chandlery was available for most commodities except eggs and liquor (beer only). Few telephones were observed, and those were located in shops. Buildings were run down and dirty. Streets, hard surfaced and in fair condition, were dirty but not littered. Only a very few buses and autos were observed. Sewers consisted of open troughs in the streets for the most part. No cranes or other mechanical handling facilities were observed except for fork-lifts. No gun emplacements, radar, or ECM [Electronics Counter Measures] [] observed. [] numerous gun batteries were seen on the Peninsular Mole in Great Harbor. Also [] all windows throughout the city had been entirely bricked over except for a peep slot near the window's center.

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[] Radio masts [] north of Twan Tao appeared rusty and unpainted, and were not lighted at night. Workers were efficient and well organized into gangs. Work progressed around the clock, and consisted of two twelve-hour shifts, seven days a week. At the end of each hour, the gang having handled the most cargo was given a red flag signifying accomplishment. Work appeared to be highly competitive.

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g. Observations in Tsingtao Proper. Numerous Soviet magazines, published in all languages, were offered for sale. Some military personnel, both male and female, were observed about the city. No tips were accepted by servers, and there was no evidence of a black market.

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Loud speakers located at various locations apparently spurred the workers to greater efforts. The people appeared to be sufficiently fed but rather ill clad. Clothing consisted of the blue work trousers and blue coat tops worn uniformly by all.

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4. Tsamkong (Ft. Bayard), 21-12 N, 110-23 E, [redacted]

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c. Shipping Observed. Several landing craft with small machine guns mounted forward were alongside the new wharf. One Polish and one Rumanian freighter were observed discharging cargoes of steel plate and bales of wire. One Soviet freighter was observed at anchorage No. 2, and appeared to be lying idle [redacted]. Some pig iron is exported from Tsamkong.

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d. Port Installations and Facilities. The new wharf is about 3,000 ft. in length. [redacted] the southern half was concrete, with the other half being of wooden construction. The wharf was well equipped for handling cargo, having some ten portal jib cranes distributed along its length. These cranes, each having an estimated capacity of 10 tons, were of Czechoslovakian make. Fresh water, fuel oil, and electric power were available on the wharf. Railway tracks and transit sheds were located immediately behind the wharf. The wood-constructed oil jetty also appears in its approximate position. Pipelines and pumping equipment servicing the oil jetty were [redacted] adequate and extremely efficient. An average size tanker could discharge its petroleum cargo in from ten to twenty hours. The oil tanks (about 10) were tall and cylindrical rather than broad and squat. Soviet tankers are bringing in oil to Tsamkong from Bulgaria, [redacted]

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The [redacted]

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battery north of new wharf consisted of several single guns of about 4" size. No fire control system was observed. Several single story military barracks have been constructed north of the gun battery near the new wharf.

e. Observations in Tsamkong. The old town of Tsamkong appeared cleaner with more newly constructed office buildings particularly south of town than might have been expected. The port appears to be in the process of active development. The people appeared more cheerful, better clothed and fed than at Tsingtao. Few if any vehicles were observed. Land reclamation was in progress between Tsamkong and the new wharf installation. Housing was fairly poor, mostly of wooden construction with sand floors. Sewers were provided by troughs in the streets. Electric lighting was weak and inadequate. Children, aged 7 to 9, were observed in school at nine o'clock in the evening. [redacted] No local police were observed, but some military personnel and numerous customs officials were in evidence.

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[redacted] The International Seamen's Club and a swimming pool were made available [redacted] for recreation. There were large propaganda posters such as those previously described in Tsingtao. A large banner stretched across the central Tsamkong street pictured "Sputniks streaking into outer space."

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f. Medical Facilities.

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[redacted] The hospital was dirty and ill equipped, [redacted] The medical methods used appeared antiquated. Many women were observed being given a maternity lecture in the Tsamkong marketplace by means of loudspeakers.

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